

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 274699

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. EGYPT

A. SADAT SETS ECONOMIC GOALS

PRESIDENT SADAT ON NOVEMBER 19 ANNOUNCED EGYPT'S MAJOR ECONOMIC OBJECTIVES FOR THE NEXT THREE YEARS:

--CORRECT THE BALANCE OF PAYMENTS PROBLEM;

--ACHIEVE SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN FOOD;

--EXTEND SOCIAL INSURANCE TO EVERY CITIZEN.

EMBASSY COMMENT: SADAT'S PROPOSALS ON FOOD AND THE BAL-
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ANCE OF PAYMENTS ARE MUTUALLY EXCLUSIVE, SINCE EGYPT'S

INABILITY TO FEED HERSELF WILL CAUSE CONTINUED DISEQUILIBRIUM IN THE BALANCE OF PAYMENTS. THE EXTENSION OF SOCIAL INSURANCE, MOREOVER, POSES SERIOUS PROBLEMS FOR OTHER AREAS OF THE ECONOMY. (CONFIDENTIAL) CAIRO 11756, 11/19.)

B. WILL CAIRO BITE THE BULLET?--OR THE HAND THAT FEEDS?

EMBASSY CAIRO AGREES WITH THE FINDINGS OF AN IMF TEAM THAT THE GOE LACKS ANY SENSE OF URGENCY AS THE DRIFT INTO POSSIBLE ECONOMIC CHAOS CONTINUES. THE GOE CLOSED THE DOOR ON COOPERATION WITH THE IMF, EXCEPT PERHAPS IN A SINAI OIL FACILITY, AS IT REJECTED CONDITIONS PLACED ON IMF ASSISTANCE.

EMBASSY COMMENT: WHILE EVADING THE DIFFICULT DECISIONS REQUIRED FOR HEALTHY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, THE GOE BELIEVES THAT ARAB STATES AND THE US WILL COVER ITS SHORTFALLS, REGARDLESS OF AMOUNTS. THE GOVERNMENT IS LOOKING AT THE USG AS A PERMANENT ECONOMIC CRUTCH AND WHEN HARD REALITIES BRING DISILLUSION, WE WILL RECEIVE MUCH OF THE BLAME. THE EMBASSY WILL CONTINUE TO URGE ECONOMIC REFORMS ON THE GOE. (CONFIDENTIAL CARIO 11740 (EXDIS), 11/19.)

2. THAIS TO OIL TROUBLED MEKONG WATERS

FOREIGN MINISTER CHATCHAI HAS ASSURED AMBASSADOR WHITEHOUSE THAT THE THAIS INTEND TO TREAT WITH RESTRAINT THE MEKONG RIVER CONFRONTATION WITH LAOS AND SEEK A PEACEFUL SOLUTION.

IN OTHER DEVELOPMENTS:

--PRIME MINISTER KHUKRIT PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED THAT THAILAND WOULD RECOVER THE BOAT BUT WOULD NEITHER REVISE ITS POLICY TOWARD LAOS NOR DISCONTINUE AID.

--OUR CONSULATE IN UDORN REPORTS THAT ON NOVEMBER 18 THAI FROGMEN RETRIEVED A BODY ON BOARD THE BOAT AND
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PLANNED TO DESTROY THE VESSEL. THE AREA HAS BEEN QUIET SINCE HOSTILITIES ENDED NOVEMBER 17. (CONFIDENTIAL) BANGKOK 24409 AND 24432, 11/19.)

3. UNGA WILL VOTE TODAY ON CYPRUS

WITH CYPRIOT, TURKISH, AND NONALIGNED DRAFTS BEFORE IT, THE UNGA WILL VOTE THIS AFTERNOON ON A CYPRUS RESOLUTION.

USUN REPORTS THAT BOTH THE NONALIGNED AND CYPRIOT VERSIONS
MAY PASS AND FEARS THAT THIS, COUPLED WITH THE DEFEAT OF
THE TURKISH DRAFT, MAY LEAD TO AN EXTENDED DEADLOCK OF THE
INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS. THE MISSION HOPES THAT TURKEY WILL
AVOID THE PROBLEM BY ABSTAINING ON THE NONALIGNED DRAFT,
DESPITE ITS ANNOUNCED OPPOSITION. (CONFIDENTIAL) USUN
6070, 11/19.) KISSINGER

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